Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for transmitting a message from a first entity to selected ones of a plurality of e-business entities, comprising:

subscribing to a service interface by the certain ones of [[the]] a first plurality of e-business entities operating on a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols, wherein the service interface contains a list of second plurality of e-business entities and wherein a subscription is created which is in communication with a broker via a query manager interface;

publishing the message to the broker by the first entity, the broker being in communication with the service interface via the query manager interface;

determining the selected ones of the first plurality of e-business entities to receive the message by the broker; and

multicasting the message to the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities based upon the determining by the broker, such that the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;

receiving the message through a multicast protocol at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities;

reviewing the message at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities;

determining if a response to the message is to be generated at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities based upon the reviewing;

publishing the response to the service interface based upon the determining;

publishing the response to the broker by the service interface; and

publishing the response to the first e-business entity by the broker.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

setting an expiration time for the published message after receiving the published message from the first entity;

if it is determined that none of the plurality of e-business entities is to receive the message; then until the expiration time lapses,

retaining the published message in the broker;

determining if an appropriate one of the plurality of e-business entities has subsequently subscribed to the service interface so as to be identified to receive the message; and

purging the message when the expiration period lapses.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim [[4]] 1, wherein the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities are each anonymous to the first e-business entity.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim [[3]] 1, further comprising:

publishing the response directly to the first e-business entity based upon the determining.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities are each known to the first e-business entity.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim [[3]] 1, further comprising;

publishing the response to the service interface based upon the determining; and

publishing the response to the first e-business entity by the service interface.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities are each known to the first e-business entity.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the message is a request for a quote (FRQ).

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the response is a quote.

12.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first entity is included in a first enterprise computer system and wherein at least one of the responding e-business entities is included in a second enterprise computing system.

13.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the first and the second enterprise computing systems are different enterprise computing systems.

14.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the first enterprise computing systems is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

15.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the second enterprise computing systems is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

16.   (Currently Amended) In a distributed computing environment, a system for transmitting a message from a first e-business entity to selected ones of a plurality of e-business entities, comprising:

a service interface coupled to the plurality of e-business entities each of which subscribes to the service interface by providing information specific to each of the plurality of e-business entities subscribing to the service interface, wherein the service interface information is associated with a list of subscribing e-business entities and associated subscribing e-business information and each of the plurality of e-business entities operating on at least one of a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;

a broker with access to a service interface wherein the message is published to the broker by the first e-business entity which in turn looks up service interface description as well as subscriptions associated with said service interface, and wherein the service interface multicasts the message to the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities based upon the information specific to each of the plurality of e-business entities subscribing to the service interface, and wherein the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols; ~~and~~ wherein when the message is received at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities the message is reviewed at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities and, based upon the review, a determination is made whether or not a response to the message is to be generated at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities, and wherein based upon the determining, the response is published to the service interface, wherein the service interface publishes the

response to the broker, and wherein the broker publishes the response to the first e-business entity; and

a query manager interface that enables communication between the broker and the service interface and enables communication between the broker and a plurality of subscriptions to the interfaces.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the message is a request for a quote (RFQ).

20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the response is a quote.

21. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the message is retained in the broker until a message expiration period lapses.

22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

making available a plurality of subscription services through a plurality of subscription interfaces in a distributed computing environment;

arranging for e-business entities each operating on at least one of a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols to selectively subscribe to one or more of the subscription services through the subscription interfaces respectively wherein a service interface contains a list of e-business entities and wherein a subscription is created which is in communication with a broker via a query manager interface;

arranging to receive a message associated with a selected one of the plurality of subscription services from a first entity;

brokering at a broker the message by ascertaining the e-business entities that have subscribed to the subscription associated with the message the broker being in communication with the service interface via the query manager interface; and

multicasting the message to the ascertained e-business entities that have subscribed to the subscription associated with the message., whereby the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;

arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to receive the message;

arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to review the message; and

arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to determine if response to the message are to be generated respectively;

arranging for each of the e-business entities that determined if a response is to be generated to publish the responses to the service interface;

publishing the responses to the broker by the service interface; and

arranging for the broker to publish the response to the first entity.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim a 22, wherein arranging to receive the message further comprises:

retaining the message for a predetermined period of time after receiving the message from the first entity;

determining if one of the plurality of e-business entities has subscribed to the associated one of the plurality of subscription services during the predetermined period of time and sending the message to the one of the plurality of e-business subscribers that subscribed during the predetermined period of time; and

purging the message at the broker after the predetermined period of time.

24-25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[25]] 22, further comprising arranging for the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities to be each anonymous to the first entity.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[25]] 22, further comprising arranging for the identity of the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities to be known by the first entity.

28.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[25]] 22, wherein the message is a request for a quote (RFQ).

29.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[24]] 22, wherein the responses are quotes.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first entity is included in a first enterprise computer system and wherein at least one of the responding e-business entities is included in a second enterprise computing system.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first and the second enterprise computing systems are different enterprise computing systems.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first enterprise computing system is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the second enterprise computing system is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.